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## HQ vice commander returns to academy

*by 2nd Lt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt, Air Force Research Laboratory Public Affairs*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Col. Michael DeLorenzo, Air Force Research Laboratory vice commander, gave up quizzing the headquarters staff on astronautics for teaching cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., earlier this month.

DeLorenzo will return to the academy after two years at AFRL to teach astronautical engineering. He served at the academy from 1995 to 2001 and was previously a permanent professor and head of the Department of Astronautics.

This was not the Knoxville, Tenn., native's first time in the laboratory, and he noted that a lot has changed. He served at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., from 1991 to 1995 as the Wright Laboratory Armament Directorate Munitions Division Advanced Guidance Division chief and acting chief scientist.

He leaves AFRL with fond memories in his heart. "I will miss the people most. I will miss their smiles, enthusiasm and professionalism. They know what they are doing is important, and you can see it when you talk to them," DeLorenzo said.

When it comes to the people at AFRL, he reminds them not to worry about career paths and promotion. "Maintain a positive can-do attitude, and take any situation you are in and make it better. Every job is promotable, as long as you do your best."

"We have an important mission. Win wars quickly and with minimal loss of lives." According to DeLorenzo, the people in AFRL are dedicated professionals who are committed to supporting the warfighter and that mission.

As he looks back on his time at AFRL, he recalls Sept. 11, 2001, as the most memorable and defining moment. He said it changed the way our nation and AFRL will do business forever.

"It changed our focus; our mainland was attacked for the first time since 1812, and this gave us a new sense of urgency to field technologies that can protect us," DeLorenzo said.

He feels his biggest contribution to the organization was to listen to the people.

When asked about his personal motto he said, "Our people have good ideas; I tried to listen and support them to make their great ideas a reality. It can be summed up in the Bible in Romans 12:1-2."

DeLorenzo was commissioned and graduated from the academy as a distinguished graduate with a bachelor's degree in astronautical engineering and engineering sciences in 1974.

He holds a master's degree in electrical engineering from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, N.M. and a doctorate in philosophy in control systems from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. @



**Col. Michael DeLorenzo**